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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/836,214	04/18/2001	Peter T. Dinsmore	NA11P089/00.175.01	6427
28875	7590	12/17/2007	EXAMINER	
Zilka-Kotab, PC P.O. BOX 721120 SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120			LAFORGIA, CHRISTIAN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	
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			12/17/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/836,214

Applicant(s)

DINSMORE ET AL.

Examiner

Christian La Forgia

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15, 17-21 and 41-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-15, 17-21 and 41-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/2/07
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment of 27 September 2007 has been noted and made of record.
2. Claims 1-12, 16, and 22-40 have been cancelled as per Applicant's request.
3. Claims 13-15, 17-21, and 41-50 have been presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12, 16, 22-40 have been considered and are now moot in view of the Applicant's cancelling of said claims.
5. The Applicant argues on pages 6 and 7 of the response of 27 September 2007 that Balenson does not specifically teach wherein the determining uses a function having the following properties: (1) knowledge of said updated first key does not give knowledge of said first key or said second key, (2) knowledge of said first key does not give any knowledge of said updated first key, and (3) knowledge of said first key and said updated first key does not give any knowledge of said second key. The Examiner has afforded the limitation very little patentable weight since wherein clauses in method claims are not given weight when they simply express the intended result of a process step positively recited. See *Texas Instruments Inc. v. U.S. International Trade Commission*, 988 F.2d 1165, 1172 [26 USPQ2d 10 18] (Fed. Cir. 1993). In this case the wherein clause merely expresses properties that result from the determining step. In other words, the properties disclosed in the wherein clause do not provide any information regarding the mechanics of how the determining step is executed. See *Minton v. National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc.*, 67 USPQ2d 1614, 1622 (Fed. Cir. 2003). See also MPEP § 2111.04. Since very little patentable weight is given to the wherein clauses in both

independent claims 13 and 43, the rejection is maintained, albeit clarified below which provides for the present non-final rejection.

6. Furthermore, in regards to the Applicant's arguments on pages 6 and 7 that Balenson does not specifically teach wherein the determining uses a function having the following properties: (1) knowledge of said updated first key does not give knowledge of said first key or said second key, (2) knowledge of said first key does not give any knowledge of said updated first key, and (3) knowledge of said first key and said updated first key does not give any knowledge of said second key, the Applicant never states that the properties are not for the collusion resistance and merely argues that the reference is not as specific as the claim language. This amounts to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references, especially since the applicant never says that the properties are not for collusion resistance. Therefore, even if the "wherein" clause is afforded patentable weight the reference still provides a teaching of the claimed properties.

7. See further rejections set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

9. Claims 13-15, 17-21, and 41-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the invention. The Examiner holds that the invention of the instant application was publicly used more than one year prior to the Applicant's filing for invention, as can be seen by

Dynamic Cryptographic Context Management (DCCM): Report #1 Architecture and System Design, which was first published on 02 June 1998. See MPEP § 2133.03(a).

10. Claims 13-15, 17-21, and 41-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Dynamic Cryptographic Context Management (DCCM): Report #1 Architecture and System Design**, by David M. Balenson et al., hereinafter Balenson.

11. As per claims 13 and 43, Balenson teaches apparatus and an environment that includes a plurality of users, wherein a first user possesses a set of keys, said set of keys including a first key that enables secure communication among a set of sets, said set of users including at least said first user and a second user, a keying method, comprising:

(a) upon eviction of at least said second user (pages 49, 115, 117), determining an updated first key using information that includes said first key and a second key (page 10, i.e. one-way function tree the keys are computed up, so in Figure 2 the keys for 1 and 2 are used to compute the key for D), wherein said second key enables secure communication among a subgroup of said set of users (page 1), wherein said subgroup does not include users subject to said eviction (Figure 4, pages 18, 20);

wherein said determining uses a function having the following properties: (1) knowledge of said updated first key does not give knowledge of said first key or said second key, (2) knowledge of said first key does not give any knowledge of said updated first key, and (3) knowledge of said first key and said updated first key does not give any knowledge of said second key (pages 34, 47, 54, 99, i.e. backward secrecy, forward secrecy, and prevent collusion, respectively). The Examiner has given very little patentable weight to the “wherein said

determining..." it does not inform of any mechanics involved in the determining function; even if the Examiner has erred in his determination of whether the "wherein" clause should be afforded patentable weight, he has provided a showing of the properties as backward secrecy, forward secrecy, and collusion-resistance. See MPEP § 2111.04.

12. With regards to claims 14, 15, 44, and 45, Balenson teaches wherein said updating occurs upon an eviction event, wherein only said second user or the second user and one or more other users are evicted (page 115, Figure 29).

13. With regards to claims 17, 41, and 46, Balenson teaches wherein said determining uses a one-way function (page 10, Figure 2, i.e. one-way function tree).

14. Concerning claims 18 and 47, Balenson teaches wherein $F()$ is a one-way function (page 10, Figure 2, i.e. one-way function tree).

15. Regarding claims 19 and 48, Balenson teaches wherein said determining uses only said first key and said second key (page 10, Figure 2, i.e. binary trees only account for two child nodes).

16. Regarding claims 20, 21, 49, and 50, Balenson teaches wherein said subgroup includes only said first user or a plurality of users (Figure 4, pages 18, 20).

Conclusion

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian La Forgia whose telephone number is (571) 272-3792.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7-5.

18. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

19. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christian LaForgia
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2131

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CLF', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

clf